

Donahue-Wood House
24 Maple Street
Norwich
New London County
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-256

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

DONAHUE-WOOD HOUSE

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Location: 24 Maple Street, Norwich, New London County, 9.
Connecticut.

Present Owner: Mrs. L. L. Wood, 24 Maple Street, Norwich, Conn.

Present Occupant: Owner.

Present Use: Residence.

Brief Statement of Significance: This small frame house reflects the prevailing Greek Revival style of the time it was built.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and subsequent owners: The present owner, Mrs. L. L. Wood, is a very old lady who has lived in the house for many years. Prior to Mrs. Wood, the house was occupied by a Dr. Donahue.
- B. Date of erection: C. 1835.
- C. Sources of information: Interview with Raymond B. Case, 12 Mediterranean Lane, Norwich, Connecticut, October 26, 1960, by Osmund R. Overby.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement
 1. Architectural character: This is a small frame house with Greek Revival trim and ornament. An identical house on West Main Street has been demolished.
 2. Condition of Fabric: Fair; but the house needs normal maintenance such as exterior painting.
- B. Technical Description of Exterior
 1. Overall dimensions: The building consists of a rectangular main block about 28' x 24', one-and-a-half stories high, with a small wing adjoining the rear of the main block, and a small shed adjoining the rear of the wing.
 2. Foundations: Brick.
 3. Wall construction: Frame with clapboards on the sides and with flush board siding on the front.

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4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc. A one-story high porch about 4' deep extends the entire width of the front of the house. The enclosed gable which extends to cover the porch is supported on four fluted Doric wood columns. There is an entrance stoop at the rear on the east side.

5. Chimneys: One chimney in the center of the main block; one chimney in the rear wing.

6. Openings

a. Doorways and doors: The shuttered front door has side lights and a top light, and is set in a frame with pilaster trim and a peaked wood lintel or simplified pediment.

b. Windows and shutters: Most of the windows are double hung with six over six light sash, and with movable slat shutters. Windows have peaked lintels or simplified pediments similar to the entrance.

7. Roof

a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with gable end to the front forming a pediment over the front porch.

b. Cornice, eaves: boxed, moulded eaves.

c. Dormers, cupolas: There is a shed-roofed dormer on the west side of the main block of the house with two double hung windows with two light over two light sash.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor plans: The front of the house is divided into three bays with the entrance in the left hand or east bay. The entrance leads into a stair hall along the east side of the house. The main block is divided into two principal rooms on the first floor with bedrooms on the second.

2. Stairways: Open string stairs with moulded handrail, turned balusters and large turned newel post.

3. Flooring: Wide board flooring.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered walls and ceilings, papered walls.

5. Doorways and doors: Four panel interior doors, typical Greek Revival moulded trim on the doorways.

6. Trim: Moulded wood trim, typical Greek Revival profiles. HABS

D. Site

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1. Orientation: The house faces north, close to the street,
on a small, level lot in a poor section of town.

2. Walks, driveways: Dirt walks and driveway.

3. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Informal landscaping with
lawn, large trees, shrubs and flowers.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
October 1960